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CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 3.

January 6, 1941

Supplies of most foods during the first half of 1941 are expected to be large compared with recent years, unless unfavorable weather conditions interfere with production. No shortages of any important foods are expected and in a number of instances larger supplies than a year ago are expected. The most significant change from 1940 is in pork, where a marked reduction in supplies is expected. Some increase in the average food price level may occur during 1941 despite this supply outlook, because of increased consumer incomes.

Beef supplies in 1941 probably will be slightly larger than last year but prices are expected to be higher. If this increase in supply materializes the total and per capita beef supply during 1941 will be one of the largest of the past 15 years. Most of the price increase over 1940 levels is expected to occur during the first half of the year. Beef prices during the last half of 1941 may not differ much from those of a year earlier. Price increases in Good and Choice beef are expected to be larger than those in lower grade beef. Thus far, in fact, beef cattle in the lower grades have advanced in price only slightly above prices of the last two years.

Pork supplies during 1941 are expected to be much less plentiful than in 1940 and higher prices are in prospect. Supplies are expected to be larger than in 5 of the past 7 years when drought took effect. However, they are expected to be lower on a per capita basis than any year since 1900, except 1934-38 and possibly 1917. Last year pork production reached record levels and prices were relatively low. At the same time the price of corn went up. As a result farmers curtailed hog raising operations by about 10 percent, and, for the same reason, marketed their supply early, shipping to market 30 percent more hogs than a year ago from October to December 1940, the first quarter of the hog marketing year. Consequently supplies during the remainder of the hog marketing year (January to September) may be about 15 to 20 percent smaller than the same period last year. The exact amount of pork to be available from October to December 1941 is still uncertain, depending upon the size of this year's spring pig crop. If farmers follow through with their present plans, supplies during the last quarter of 1941 will also be much smaller than a year earlier. As indicated in previous issues of the Market Service, pork prices from January through March not only are expected to be higher than a year ago, but also a larger than usual seasonal price increase is in prospect because of unusually early marketings of pigs last fall.

No material change in lamb supplies is expected in 1941 but prices may be higher than a year ago. Outlook for the first 4 months of 1941, when supplies consist mainly of grain-fed lambs, is for a

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slight increase over last year. Supplies during the remainder of the year will depend partly upon the size of the 1941 lamb crop on which no information is available at present. During the past 10 years there has been little year to year change in the lamb crop.

Poultry and egg supplies during the first half of 1941 will be slightly smaller than a year earlier. During the last half of 1941 egg supplies are expected to continue below their 1940 levels but poultry supplies probably will be larger. Consequently egg supplies for the year will be smaller than in 1940. Whether or not poultry supplies will be larger or smaller than in 1940 will depend upon the extent of the increase during the last half of the year.

Fruit outlook for the first half of 1941 is for less pears, slightly more apples, but more citrus (grapefruit, oranges, tangerines and lemons) than a year ago. The 1940 apple crop was smaller than that of the previous year. However, commercial storage holdings from this crop, source of marketings during the first half of the year, are about 8 percent larger than a year ago and the largest since 1937. Hence larger supplies are expected. Larger citrus supplies are the result of record or close to record size crops. Current orange and grapefruit crops are not as large as appeared probable earlier because of unfavorable weather conditions the past two months. The extent of damage in recent weeks is not known yet. Unless this damage was exceptionally heavy the citrus crops still will be relatively large. Because of marketing programs operating in California and Florida, not all of this year's large citrus production will move to market. The extent of the increase in supplies over recent years will depend upon marketing programs followed by citrus growers. However, it appears probable that supplies marketed during the first half of this year will be considerably larger than a year ago, although to date Florida shipments have been 20 percent less than last year. Citrus prices probably won't be as high as in the first half of 1940, when marketings were curtailed because of freeze damage.

Dairy production during the first half of 1941 probably will be larger than a year ago unless pasture conditions are unfavorable. Prices, however, may be higher. The number of cows during 1941 is expected to be larger than last year and we have the ability to produce more milk if we have proper feed supplies.

Vegetable supplies during the first half of 1941 probably will be larger than in 1940 unless weather conditions are unfavorable. Prices probably will average lower than during the same period a year ago, particularly during the first quarter of the year. Last year vegetable supplies were relatively small during the first quarter of the year because of a cold wave which severely damaged crops in the winter producing areas. More potatoes, less sweetpotatoes, more tender vegetables, and more onions than a year ago are expected.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

VOLUME V, NUMBER 4

January 16, 1941

Considerably larger quantities of fresh vegetables and much smaller supplies of pork than during the first quarter of 1940 are the two outstanding items in the food picture for early 1941.

Most vegetables probably will be more plentiful and cheaper than in the first quarter of 1940 unless we get unfavorable growing conditions. Largest increases in supplies over a year ago are expected in snap beans, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, new potatoes, and beets. These vegetables were relatively scarce last year when unfavorable weather curtailed production in the Southern states from which we obtain much of our winter supplies. Only vegetable which seems likely to be much less plentiful than a year ago is sweetpotatoes. However, supplies of old potatoes during the first quarter of the year are expected to be about 10 percent larger than a year ago.

The pork picture has not changed in recent weeks and supplies still are expected to be from 20 to 30 percent smaller than the large supplies available during the first 4 months of 1940. Pork probably will be much less plentiful than it was in the same period in years prior to 1934, but it won't differ much from the amounts available from 1936 to 1939, when drought curtailed production. Usually retail pork prices advance during the first 4 months of the year, but in view of the smaller supply, a larger than usual increase is expected this year. Hog prices already have moved up sharply.

Better grade beef is expected to become more plentiful as the year progresses. Total supplies through the late summer are expected to be larger than a year ago in view of the larger number of cattle on feed on January 1. However, most of this increase in supply over a year ago is expected to come in the late spring and summer. Consequently, in the next few months better grade beef supplies may not differ much from a year ago. The price outlook is for better grade beef to decline less than usual during the next few months and for lower grade beef to advance in price. Beef is expected to cost more than a year ago, particularly better grades.

Strawberries are expected to be much less plentiful than during the first quarter of 1940. From January through March supplies come primarily from Florida. The early Florida crop is about one-third smaller than a year ago and the smallest since 1928. Marketings of strawberries generally are relatively small during the first two months of the year.

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Unusually large butter production for this time of the year has been a major factor behind the 6 cent a pound wholesale price decline since mid-December. Wholesale butter prices now are back to their level of early October 1940, and are also lower than a year ago. During the next few months, butter production is expected to continue larger than a year ago. Prices in January probably will continue below 1940 levels, since last January prices went up as the result of a cold wave. Some further reduction in butter prices is in prospect during the remainder of the first half of this year, but butter probably will be more expensive than last year, after the end of this month.

Egg production has finally dropped below its level of a year ago and the outlook is for supplies to continue smaller than a year ago during most of 1941. Supplies, however, are expected to move up monthly through April, when egg production generally reaches its high point for the year. While the trend in egg prices should be downward from now to April, prices might move up temporarily in January if we have a period of very cold weather.

Poultry prices ordinarily start moving up in January, but this year the trend appears to have commenced about a month earlier. Supplies of cold storage poultry on January 1, an important source of marketings during the first half of the year, were much larger than a year ago and the largest on record. However, these increased quantities of cold storage poultry are expected to be more than offset by smaller marketings of fresh killed poultry. Hence supplies in the next 5 or 6 months probably will be smaller than a year ago.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

There has been no change recently in the list of commodities designated nationally as "surplus commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. On January 15, the following items were included:

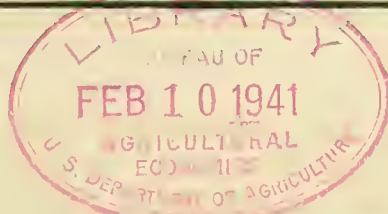
IRISH POTATOES, ONIONS, CABBAGE;
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK, LARD;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR,
WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V. Number 5.



February 1, 1941.

Recent curtailment of supplies of tender vegetables appears to be temporary. With the return of more favorable weather conditions supplies are expected to increase again. If conditions are unusually favorable a marked increase in supplies may occur. Supplies may not be as large as appeared probable earlier, but still are expected to be more plentiful than during the first quarter of 1940, when cold weather sharply curtailed production. Reduced supplies during recent weeks were due to excessive rains and cold weather in the winter vegetable producing areas. These unfavorable weather conditions hampered picking operations, destroyed some acreage, and lowered the quality of vegetables marketed.

Meat supply outlook has not changed the past two weeks. Compared with last February--more lamb, about the same amount of beef, and much less pork still are expected. Pork and beef are not expected to be as plentiful as in January. Meats are expected to continue to be more expensive than a year ago.

Butter supplies this month are expected to be larger than in January and also above their February 1940 level. Wholesale prices have remained relatively stable since mid-January, when the Surplus Marketing Administration commenced purchasing butter. Current prices are 2 cents a pound lower than a year ago, and relatively low for this time of the year.

Potatoes probably will be more plentiful than they were during the first half of 1940. Larger supplies of both old and new potatoes are expected. During this period prices of old potatoes generally advance, whereas those of new potatoes decline. In view of the current relatively large supplies of old potatoes, the seasonal increase this year may be less than usual.

Larger quantities of onions than a year ago, also are in prospect throughout the first half of 1941. A slight increase is expected in February and March, when supplies consist principally of stored onions remaining from the 1940 late onion crop. A marked increase is expected from April to June, when the bulk of marketings are Texas Bermuda onions. Onion prices generally advance until the Texas crop starts moving to market volume.

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Cabbage may not be as plentiful as it was last February and March. Prior to the recent rains, the crop for marketing during this period was expected to be 10 percent smaller. Unfavorable weather has curtailed production further, and also lowered the quality of cabbage available for shipment.

Apples may continue more expensive than a year ago, during the next few months, even though they will be more plentiful. The effect of larger supplies on prices is expected to be more than offset by higher consumer incomes and government purchases for relief purposes. Generally apple prices go up during the first half of the year. No unusually large increase is expected this year.

More oranges and grapefruit at lower prices than a year ago are in prospect for the remaining winter and spring months. In view of these large supplies, the price advance which generally occurs during the first half of the year probably will be less than usual.

Much of the seasonal decline in egg prices which generally comes between late November and early April appears to have occurred already. Wholesale and retail prices of top quality eggs at New York have declined about 13.5 cents a dozen since the last week in November. Current retail prices of both top and average quality eggs in New York are only 2 to 3 cents a dozen above their April 1940 low point. Egg prices this year may not drop as low as in 1940, in view of the smaller supplies in prospect.

Larger supplies of broiling chickens than last winter are expected. Storage stocks are about the same as last year, but a marked increase in fresh killed supplies is expected. Winter broilers ordinarily cost more than those produced in the spring and early summer, when prices generally are at their low point.

Latest check shows that total canned vegetable supplies at the start of the current season, which began last summer, were slightly (2 percent) larger than last season, and much (12 percent) above average (1934-38). Total supplies remaining for the January-June 1941 period are not known because available data cover only canners' stocks. A more complete picture of the total supply situation can be had early this month when data on representative wholesalers' stocks will be available. Canners' stocks of peas and tomatoes on January 1 were larger than last year and above average. Stocks of corn were smaller than a year ago and below average. String bean stocks were below a year ago, but above average. These comparisons, however, do not reflect stocks held by others than canners.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 6

February 15, 1941.

Vegetable supplies are expected to become more plentiful during the next few weeks and to be much larger than they were at this time last year. Supplies won't be as big as appeared probable earlier, because of heavy rains which curtailed production. The damage due to unfavorable weather, however, has been materially less than that caused by last year's freeze. During the next four weeks all vegetables except celery, cabbage, onions, sweetpotatoes, shallots, and Florida lettuce are expected to be more plentiful than a year earlier.

Meat supply outlook hasn't changed during the past two weeks. Supplies of pork through March are still expected to decline more than usual and to be much smaller than a year earlier. Beef and lamb may be a little more plentiful than in February and March 1940. However, prices of all meats probably will continue to be higher than last February.

Much smaller cabbage supplies than last February and March are in prospect. Unfavorable weather conditions destroyed about one-fourth of the crop available for marketing during this period. Remaining supplies are about a third less than a year ago and the smallest for this time of the year since 1935, when production was extremely small.

Heavy shipments of green peas are expected during the next 3 or 4 weeks from California, major source of supplies during this period. The California crop is the largest of record and about double of that a year ago. This increase will be partly offset by reductions in production in Florida and Texas, which ordinarily market some peas in this period. Harvesting in these latter two States is practically over now, due to unfavorable weather.

Relatively large supplies of both old and new potatoes still are in prospect for the remainder of the first half of this year. The increase in supplies of old potatoes over 1940 levels, however, will be less than appeared probable earlier, because of programs inaugurated by the Surplus Marketing Administration to divert some western and Maine old potatoes to livestock feed and starch production. Despite this diversion program, potatoes probably will continue to be cheaper than a year ago, and will advance only slightly the next few months.

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Rice supplies may not be as big as the relatively large supplies available during the first half of 1940. Unlike most other agricultural products, rice exports have increased since the outbreak of war. This increase has been due mainly to larger exports to Cuba, which is buying American instead of Oriental rice. Wholesale prices have advanced recently and are higher than last year.

Fruit outlook has not changed recently and it still appears that citrus (orange, grapefruit and lemons) and apples will be more plentiful than they were last winter and spring. Larger supplies of both Florida and California oranges are in prospect. The increase in California supplies over last year's level, however, may be larger than that in Florida oranges. Oranges and grapefruit probably will be cheaper than they were last spring, with price reductions more pronounced in grapefruit than in oranges.

Strawberry supplies through early March are expected to continue to be much smaller than they were last year. After the early part of April, however, supplies may be much larger than in 1940. Strawberries ordinarily are not marketed in volume until late March.

Egg production to date has been larger than a year ago, but the outlook is for smaller supplies than in 1940 throughout the remainder of the year. Supplies are expected to increase seasonally through April. However, the price decline during this period may be less than usual, because most of the seasonal reduction appears to have occurred already. On January 31, the Surplus Marketing Administration began buying eggs for distribution to relief clients. This program was undertaken because recent sharp price declines have resulted in relatively low prices for this time of the year.

Milk production on February 1 was considerably larger than last year and the largest of record for the date. In view of prospects for continued heavy milk production in the next few months supplies of dairy products probably will increase and be larger than last winter and spring. Butter prices, however, may be slightly above their 1940 level because the increase in consumer incomes in prospect is expected to more than offset the effect of larger supplies on price. In the first half of February, the Surplus Marketing Administration continued to buy butter for distribution to relief clients. These purchases, like those in eggs, were based on the relatively low prices for this time of the year.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Cabbage has been dropped from the list of commodities designated nationally as "surplus commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. On February 15, the following items were included:

IRISH POTATOES, ONIONS;
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK, LARD;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR,
WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 7

March 1, 1941.

Unusual weather conditions the past two months resulted in supplies of eggs, butter, and vegetables materially different from those forecast for this period in earlier issues of the Market Service. Barring continuation of these unusual weather conditions, the outlook for the remainder of the first half of the year still is for less eggs, more vegetables, and slightly more butter than last year. During March, these three foods also are expected to be more plentiful, and lower in price, than in February.

Mild weather in the principal butter and egg producing areas in January and February was responsible for considerably larger supplies than last year, whereas the outlook (based on average weather conditions) had been for less eggs and only slightly more butter. Prices of butter and eggs declined but they did not fully reflect the effect of the marked increase in supplies because the Surplus Marketing Administration purchased some of these unusually large supplies. Heavy rains and cold weather in winter vegetable producing areas, on the other hand, offset partly a much larger acreage and the marked increase in supplies expected did not materialize. Some vegetable prices advanced materially as wet weather curtailed supplies, hindered harvesting, and lowered quality. Ordinarily prices decline seasonally.

Pork and poultry probably won't be as plentiful this month as in February. However, a little more beef and lamb than a month ago is expected. Compared with last year the outlook is for much less pork, slightly less poultry, slightly more beef and lamb. Prices of all meats are expected to continue higher than in 1940 during the next few months.

Asparagus season opened in mid-February, a little earlier than usual, and marked increases in supplies are expected in the next few months. Earliest shipments generally come primarily from California, which ordinarily markets most of its grass in April. Peak movement from California may be a little early this year, in view of the earlier start. Lowest asparagus prices of the season in Mid-Western and Eastern markets usually are not reached until May when supplies come from producing areas located closer to consuming centers. Since more than half of the California crop is used for canning, it is not possible to determine how supplies for shipment in fresh form will compare with those a year ago. Total acreage planted to asparagus in California is slightly smaller than last year's acreage.

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More new potatoes, about the same amount of old potatoes, but less sweetpotatoes than during February are expected this month. Supplies of sweets probably will be much smaller than last year, but new potatoes should be more plentiful. Outlook for old potatoes is somewhat uncertain and will depend upon the amount of potatoes diverted to starch and livestock feed under programs inaugurated recently by the Surplus Marketing Administration. If diversion reaches the maximum amount specified under these programs, supplies the next few months may not differ much from a year ago. In view of the fact that the program started late during the old potato season, diversions may not reach this maximum figure. The diversion program has resulted in higher prices than appeared likely earlier this year, but potato prices still are relatively low for this time of the year.

Tomatoes should be more plentiful and better in quality this month, unless weather conditions are unfavorable. Supplies will be much larger than a year ago but they may be below average levels for March. Production in South Florida, major source of domestic tomatoes in March, is much larger than the freeze-damaged crop of a year ago, but is not quite as big as the average for the 10 preceding years. During March domestic tomato supplies usually are augmented by imports from Cuba and Mexico.

Texas spinach is moving to market in volume and March supplies probably won't differ much from those in February. On the average, Texas produces about one-half the total annual amount of spinach grown in commercial areas. February and March ordinarily are the months of heaviest Texas shipments. This year's Texas crop isn't quite as big as last year's, but marketings to date have been much in excess of those in 1940.

Strawberry marketings are expected to increase throughout March, but no substantial increase in supplies is expected until late in March or early April. At that time Louisiana, the largest single strawberry producing state, should be marketing large quantities of berries. Shipments from Louisiana are expected to begin about the 10th of March. Supplies during the next two weeks will come primarily from Florida, where a crop much smaller than last year is in prospect.

Apples probably won't be as plentiful in March as they were last month, but they will be more plentiful than last year. Current supplies are coming from storage warehouses, and stocks are declining, seasonally. While wholesale apple prices in general have been higher than last year, prices of many of the varieties usually exported in volume, such as Jonathans and Winesaps, have been lower than a year ago.

A slight increase in orange and grapefruit supplies over February levels is in prospect for March. Citrus fruits will be much more plentiful than last March.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

MAR 2 1941

VOLUME V, NUMBER 8.

MARCH 15, 1941

Relatively small supplies of snap beans, lima beans, tomatoes, and green peppers are in prospect for the next 4 weeks. The seasonal increase in marketings of these products expected earlier probably will not materialize because of unfavorable growing conditions in States shipping these vegetables at this period of the year. Cabbage and celery supplies also will be below earlier expectations because of weather. However, even though supplies will be smaller than last year some increase in marketings is expected in the next few weeks. The weather did not materially affect beets, carrots, spinach, and lettuce. Supplies of these vegetables most likely will increase in the next few weeks and be more plentiful than a year ago.

Pork storage stocks are much larger than they were last year but are not unusually large for this time of the year. However, the outlook still is that pork will be much less plentiful and higher in price than from March to October 1940. Hog slaughter during this period probably will be 15 percent under a year ago. Only a very small part of this decrease will be offset by the larger storage stocks. Supplies in the next 4 weeks are expected to be smaller than they have been the past month. While prices have declined recently, the outlook is for an upward adjustment before the end of September.

Beef is expected to continue more expensive than last year, despite recent reductions in wholesale prices and slight reductions in retail beef prices. Since mid-January, good, choice, and prime cattle prices at Chicago have dropped \$1.50 a hundred pounds. This decline canceled all the upswing from late September to mid-January. However, better grade cattle prices still were \$1.25 a hundred above last year. The price declines occurred notwithstanding weekly reductions in marketings. Part of this reduction was seasonal, but in early March cattle producers held back marketing to check the price declines. Beef supplies during the next month probably will be slightly larger than in the past 4 weeks and in the same period a year ago.

Tomato supplies probably will be relatively small during the remainder of March and April. Production in south Florida, major source of domestic tomatoes at this time of the year, is only half the average production for this State. The crop is slightly smaller than the very limited crop of last year. Frost in early March destroyed much of

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the south Florida crop and offset the effect of a larger acreage. Tomato supplies are expected to increase after the end of April, but it may be June before supplies are plentiful.

Asparagus supplies have been smaller than expected because wet weather delayed harvesting in California, major source of March and April marketings. Unless wet weather continues supplies are expected to increase materially in the next few weeks. Larger California marketings will be augmented by shipments from Georgia and South Carolina. The California crop for marketing in fresh form and canning is a little smaller than that a year ago. However, in the other two States slightly larger crops are expected.

No material increase in strawberry supplies is expected until April, when the outlook is for much more berries than last year. During the remainder of March, supplies are expected to be limited in quantity and considerably less than they were a year ago. Strawberries from Louisiana, the largest berry producing State, now are not expected to start moving to market until the end of this month, with heaviest shipments due the end of April. A frost in late February delayed the start of the season several weeks. Strawberry prices ordinarily decline seasonally from April through the end of May, or early June, at which time they reach their season's low point.

Further seasonal increases in egg supplies are expected during the remainder of March and in April. Wholesale prices appear to be close to their low point for the season. Supplies during the remainder of March probably won't differ much from those a year ago. However, during the spring and summer months the outlook is for slightly less eggs at higher prices than in the same months of 1940.

Butter outlook has not changed in the past two weeks and supplies still are expected to increase through June. Butter also should continue to be more plentiful than it was a year ago, but higher in price. Wholesale prices have remained practically unchanged since mid-January, when the Surplus Marketing Administration commenced its butter buying operations. Some further seasonal price reduction is expected between now and the end of June.

Potato supply outlook still points to more new and old potatoes, but less sweetpotatoes than last March. A slight increase in new potato marketings is in prospect in the next few weeks, but a marked increase may occur in April if the weather is favorable. The old potato season has about two more months to run, and after the beginning of April marketings probably will decrease. In view of current large old potato supplies, some potatoes are being diverted into livestock feed and starch production. Diversions through early March, however, were not large enough to have any appreciable effect on prices.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 9

APR 8 - 1941

April 1, 1941.

Vegetables most likely will be more plentiful in the first half of April than they were in the previous two weeks, but the increase is expected to be less than usual. This smaller than seasonal increase traces back to recent unfavorable weather conditions, which reduced production of many crops, and materially curtailed supplies of tomatoes, snap beans, eggplant, cucumbers, green peppers, and lima beans. Supplies of these latter tender vegetables probably won't change much during the next two weeks, and will be small for this time of the year. However, the outlook is for some increase over March levels in marketings of most other vegetables such as asparagus, cabbage, spinach, lettuce, rhubarb, and radishes.

Asparagus season swings fully underway in April, when marketings from California reach their high point for the season. Part of the asparagus grown for market is canned and it is not possible to determine how prospective fresh supplies will compare with those in earlier years. Production in states which ship asparagus between late March and early May is slightly smaller than last year and unless canning operations are increased, fresh supplies probably will differ little from last year. Asparagus season generally extends from March through July and supplies are most plentiful in April, May, and June.

Strawberry supplies not only are expected to increase sharply between March and April, but also to be much more plentiful than they were last April. This is in decided contrast with the supply situation during March, when supplies were relatively small. Production in states which ship berries mainly in April is much (45%) larger than a year ago and well above average. Strawberry marketings ordinarily increase from now through late May or early June, when prices reach their low point for the season.

Potato outlook remains the same as it was last month, namely--more white potatoes, but less sweetpotatoes, than last year. Supplies of white potatoes in April probably will be larger than in March, but sweetpotatoes most likely won't be quite as plentiful. Season for old potatoes generally ends in June and marketings are decreasing. Marketings of new potatoes, however, are increasing, and in a month or so new potatoes will represent the bulk of market supplies.

Egg production is expected to reach its monthly peak for the year in April. Supplies during the month probably will be about as large as a

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year ago. The number of laying hens is smaller than last year, and this probably will just about offset the effect of a continued larger production per hen. Low point in egg prices appears to have been reached, and the trend in prices probably will be upward until November, when prices generally are at their seasonal peak. Recent changes in egg prices, however, have been considerably larger than usual for this time of the year. These advances primarily reflect changes in demand for eggs, rather than changes in supplies. Current supplies have been about as large as anticipated. However, reports that eggs may be exported to Europe have stimulated trade demand for eggs.

Butter production has not reached its peak for the season, even though wholesale prices have advanced materially in recent weeks to a new high level for 1941. The outlook still is for production to increase monthly through June, and for butter to be more plentiful than during the same period in 1940. Ordinarily, these supply increases would result in some further downward adjustment in prices between now and June, when butter generally reaches its low point for the year. Recent advances in butter prices appear to be due mainly to the same factors behind the upswing in eggs--the prospect of increased exports. At the end of March wholesale butter prices at New York were about 4 cents a pound higher than a year ago.

Pork supplies from April through September still are expected to be much (15%) smaller than in the same months of 1940. Hence, pork probably will continue to be more expensive than last year. During April, supplies probably will be slightly smaller than in March. However, some seasonal increase in supplies is in prospect for May, when marketings of pigs farrowed last fall get underway. Frequently, pork prices decline in May, but the decline this year may be less than usual.

Beef supplies this month probably won't differ much from those in March, and also may be about the same as a year ago. Seasonal upturn in beef supplies generally doesn't begin until May, and then supplies increase monthly until they reach their peak in October. The outlook still is for beef prices to continue at higher levels than a year ago during the next few months.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Two commodities (rice and pears) have been dropped and one (carrots) added to the list of foods designated nationally as "surplus commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. The list of foods for the month of April is as follows:

IRISH POTATOES, ONIONS, CARROTS;
APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK, LARD;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, WHEAT FLOUR,
WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 10

APR 22 1941
April 15, 1941.

Production of dairy, hog, and poultry products during the next 15 months is expected to be larger than appeared probable earlier, due to a Department program to encourage increased production of these foods. This program, undertaken as a result of the Lend-Lease Act, is an attempt to adjust agricultural production upward. It provides for government purchases of these foods (which can be used for lend-lease exports, relief, or resale in the domestic market) to support prices and thereby encourage production. This report on the supplies of various foods takes into account both the supplies which may come to market in this country and the supplies which may be shipped abroad under the Defense program.

The program will increase production of some foods such as dairy products immediately, but its major effect will come in 1942. In eggs, the production increase probably will not be marked until early this winter, when chickens from this spring's hatch begin to lay. Larger chicken supplies will be noticeable in the last half of 1941. In the case of pork, the program will result in marketings of hogs at heavier weights this fall and winter, but a significant increase in market supplies due to the program is not expected to begin until the spring of 1942.

This prospective production in 1941-42, if there were no increase in exports, would give domestic consumers slightly less pork but more dairy and poultry products than they had in 1940-41. Increased exports of pork will reduce domestic supplies in 1941-42 still further below 1940-41. In the other products, the amount of increased exports compared with the increase in production will determine how domestic supplies in the coming year will compare with those in 1940-41. What the net effect will be cannot be stated at this time. The aim, however, is to maintain per capita supplies for domestic consumption as high as possible.

Even though production is expected to be larger than appeared probable earlier, prices of these products probably will continue above 1940 levels. The Department's plan provides for government purchases to support long-term wholesale prices at levels higher than average levels of the past year. The effect of the lend-lease activities thus will be to maintain domestic prices at levels above those of last year. The Department's program for meeting lend-lease requirements, however, should make it possible to temper such price increases because commodities purchased to encourage larger production in turn could be resold in the domestic market if prices advance unduly. The Department's announcement of April 3 said: "Should unwarranted speculation drive prices up to unduly high levels at any time, the supplies in the hands of the Government will be released to stabilize prices and maintain them at reasonable levels."

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Reaction to announcement of the plan in the markets was a marked increase in hog prices, and a slight reduction in butter. Immediately prior to the inauguration of the plan, butter prices were slightly above, egg prices about the same, and hog prices much below the long-term price levels announced. This increase in hog prices has resulted in a more favorable relationship between hog and corn prices, which should encourage farmers to raise more hogs than they would have without the change in this ratio. Because of the time required to raise hogs, these increased quantities will not be available for marketing until the spring of 1942.

Egg production appears to be close to its peak for the season, and supplies are expected to decline monthly from May through November. During this period, prices generally advance, with better-grade eggs going up more than average-grade eggs. Because of the government price-supporting program, production during the next few months now is expected to be larger than in 1940, even though the number of laying hens on farms is smaller than last year.

Except for the above change in the long-time pork supply outlook, the meat supply situation is about the same as reported in the last issue of the MARKET SERVICE. Lambs from the 1941 crop have started moving to market, and further increases in supplies are expected. Pork, beef, and veal supplies also probably will increase during the next four weeks. Compared with last year, the prospect is for much less pork, slightly more beef and lamb, and about the same amount of veal. Meat also probably will continue to be more expensive than last year.

Supplies of new potatoes, onions, and cabbage, which have been relatively small the past few weeks, are expected to increase during the last half of April, and a marked increase is in prospect in the first half of May. In each case, unfavorable weather has been responsible for the small supplies.

Tender vegetable supplies are expected to increase during the next four weeks, but the increase may not be marked until after the end of the month. During the remainder of April, total supplies probably will be smaller than last year. However, in May and June larger supplies than last year of nearly all vegetables are in prospect.

Relatively large supplies of strawberries are in prospect for the remainder of April and May. Marketings probably will increase weekly during this period, until they reach their peak in late May or early June, and most likely will be larger than last year.

Supplies of citrus fruit (except lemons) are expected to decline until the new crop season opens next fall. Lemon supplies, on the other hand, are expected to continue to increase during the spring and summer months. Supplies of all citrus fruits during the remainder of the present season probably will be larger than last season. The reduction in total supplies reflects the fact that Florida and Texas grapefruit seasons are over by June, and Florida orange season closes in July.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 11

May 15, 1941

Vegetable supplies probably will increase during the next few weeks, but it probably will not be until mid-June that supplies will be more plentiful than in 1940. During the remainder of the month, supplies of snap beans and asparagus will be relatively large for this time of the year. Tomatoes, green peppers, green peas, and cucumbers, on the other hand, will be relatively small. In other vegetables, supplies probably won't differ much from last year. As soon as the heavy movement of vegetable supplies gets underway in June, supplies are expected to be relatively large for several months. Vegetables ordinarily are lowest in price in the summer months because supplies are seasonally large and because they are produced close to consuming centers.

Largest marketings of strawberries for the season are expected to occur late this month or early in June. This is usually the time of the year when strawberry prices are lowest. Marketings during the peak period this year probably will be much larger than last year, in view of heavier production. Strawberry season generally doesn't end until July, but June ordinarily is the last month of large supplies.

Substantial increases in marketings of new potatoes are in prospect for the next few weeks, and supplies probably will be relatively large for this time of the year. A record crop--16 percent larger than a year ago--is being produced in States which market potatoes in May and the first half of June. Season for old potatoes is drawing to a close and from now on new potatoes will be the major source of supply. Remaining supplies of old potatoes, however, are relatively large. At this time of the year prices of old potatoes generally advance, whereas those of new potatoes decline. Due to relatively large supplies, prices of all potatoes probably will be lower than last year.

Beans (for dried beans) and tomatoes (for canning) have been added to the list of foods the production of which the Department of Agriculture is urging farmers to increase. These increases, like those in dairy, poultry, and pork products, are being encouraged by means of purchase programs designed to support prices. (See MARKET SERVICE April 15.) If the aims of the dried bean and canned tomato programs are accomplished, total supplies will be the largest of record and much larger than last year. Whether or not these increases in production will mean larger supplies for domestic consumption than in 1940 will depend upon three factors: the exact amount of the increase; the quantities exported or used for relief; and the level at which the Government supports prices.

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Much more beef, more lamb, but considerably less pork than last year, is the outlook for this summer. Beef and lamb supplies probably will increase from now through October, when monthly marketings generally are at their peak for the year. Little change in pork supplies is expected within the next month, even though supplies usually increase. Meat probably will continue to be more expensive than last year. During the summer months pork probably will go up more than usual, and beef less than usual. Lamb prices ordinarily reach their peak for the year in June and then decline.

Outlook for egg supplies hasn't changed in recent weeks, and supplies during the next few months probably will be about the same as last year. Supplies, however, will continue to decline monthly until November, when production generally is at its low for the year. Egg prices have been relatively high for this time of the year, and this is resulting in a marked increase in hatchings. Since these chickens won't start producing eggs until next fall, it will be some time before the major effect of the egg price-supporting program on production will be felt. At present, the program is helping to keep production equal to last year's level, despite a smaller number of laying hens.

Relatively high prices of dairy products have resulted in record high production of milk. On May 1, total milk production was 9 percent larger than a year ago and 6 percent above the previous record for this date. Government purchases of cheese and evaporated milk, in connection with the program to encourage farmers to produce more milk, have been partly responsible for the increase in prices and production over levels of recent years. However, part of the reason why dairy products are selling at the highest May prices since 1930 is speculative buying of butter for storage. This butter is being purchased in the belief that Government purchases of cheese and evaporated milk this year will materially reduce the amount of milk available for butter making and thereby result in high butter prices in the fall and winter months. The storing of these butter supplies has kept the increased production of milk from bringing prices down to more reasonable levels for this time of the year. Prices of all dairy products have advanced since March, contrary to the usual trend for this time of the year.

Cantaloup season has opened and marketings are expected to increase weekly from now through July and August. Supplies during the next 6 weeks, however, probably will be much smaller than last year and considerably below average. In July the outlook is for much larger supplies than in 1940.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Onions have been dropped from the list of foods obtainable with blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan. The list of 16 foods designated on a Nationwide basis for the remainder of May is as follows:

IRISH POTATOES, CARROTS;	BUTTER, EGGS, PORK, LARD;
APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;	CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, WHEAT-
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;	FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLO

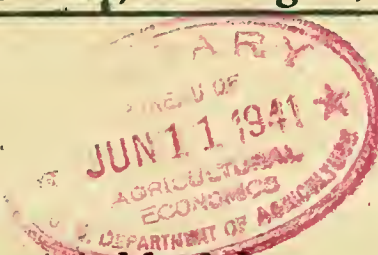
CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 12

June 1, 1941



Vegetable supplies during the first half of June probably will increase less than usual and also may be smaller than last year. Unfavorable weather conditions continue to restrict production and marketings. Lack of rainfall in recent weeks has particularly affected production in local market gardens, which ordinarily begin to be an important source of eastern supplies at this time of the year. Recent unfavorable weather conditions make it difficult to forecast the supply outlook for the first half of June. Prior to the dry spell, supplies of cucumbers, snap beans, lima beans, and potatoes were expected to be larger than last year, and tomatoes, peas, onions, and cabbage smaller.

Quantities as well as varieties of fresh fruits are expected to increase materially in the next few months. The 1941 fruit season still is in the early stages, however, and supplies won't be large until July. First sweet cherries of the season already have moved to market. During the course of the current month, peaches, plums, apricots, figs, table grapes, and apples will be available. Lowest prices of various fruits come at different times during the season. Months in which supplies ordinarily reach their peak are: sweet cherries--June; apricots--July; peaches--July and August; plums and figs--August and September; pears--September; apples and grapes--October.

Supplies of table variety or eating peaches in June and July probably will be unusually large. Production in states shipping supplies in these months is the largest in about 10 years and over 50 percent bigger than last year.

Strawberry supplies most likely will decrease during the remainder of the present season, but increased marketings of other berries are expected in the next few weeks. Ordinarily, blackberries come to market in largest volume in June, and seasonal peak in marketings of blueberries, huckleberries, and raspberries occurs in July. Information on how current supplies compare with earlier years is not available. Outlook for strawberry supplies has been altered by dry weather in producing areas, and supplies the next few weeks probably won't be as plentiful as last year.

Melon (cantaloups, honeyball and honeydew melons, and watermelons) supplies are expected to increase weekly during June, but they probably won't be as large as last year and will be below usual levels. During July, however, cantaloups may be more plentiful than usual. Low point in watermelon and cantaloup prices for the season generally comes in July and August, respectively.

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Supplies of broiling and frying chickens probably will increase more than usual during June and will be much larger than last year. Fowls, however, probably won't be as plentiful as last June. This increase over 1940 is due partly to action taken by the Department to encourage large hatchings through an egg price-supporting program. Chicken marketings reflect the effect of a larger hatch much sooner than egg supplies because cockerels (males) from the hatch are sold for meat as broilers or fryers a few months after they are hatched, whereas over six months is needed to raise an egg-laying pullet. Broiler and fryer supplies are expected to increase further in July and August and the outlook is for more chickens than a year ago throughout the remainder of 1941.

Egg production in June probably will be seasonally smaller than May, but it may not differ much from last year. Production per hen has been at record high levels for this time of the year, due to the Department's price-supporting purchases, but this increase is being balanced by the fact that the number of laying hens is smaller than last year. If the Department's purchases continue at recent levels, supplies available for domestic consumption will be smaller than last June. During May, purchases of fresh, dried, and frozen eggs by the Department amounted to about 4 to 5 percent of the estimated total supply (stocks on May 1 plus production).

Monthly production of milk and manufactured dairy products is expected to reach its peak in June, and then to decline monthly through the remainder of the year. In view of relatively high prices, June production probably will be much larger than last year, unless dry weather curtails production. Despite record large production, prices of all dairy products have continued at unusually high levels for this time of the year--a period when they ordinarily are close to their seasonal low. Purchases of dairy products by the Department in May amounted to 2 percent of estimated total milk production, and absorbed only part of the estimated increase in milk production over last May. Under these circumstances, it appears that improved consumer buying power and speculative storing of butter have been major factors behind higher prices.

Supplies of good and choice grade beef probably will increase more than usual during the next two or three months and be much more plentiful than last year. Most of this increase will be noticeable in the late summer. Beef prices ordinarily go up during these months, but a smaller than usual increase is in prospect this year. Difference between prices of top grade (good and choice) and average grade (commercial and utility) beef now is much smaller than early this year.

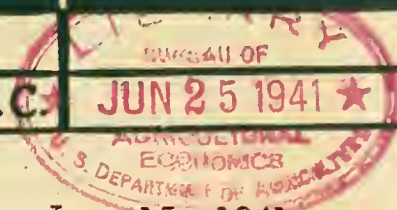
"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Butter and carrots have been dropped and snap beans added to the list of foods available on a nationwide basis with blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan. Foods designated for June are:

IRISH POTATOES, SNAP BEANS, CABBAGE;
APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
EGGS, PORK, LARD;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, WHEAT FLOUR,
WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.



Volume V, Number 13

June 15, 1941.

Unfavorable weather conditions continue to interfere with vegetable production, and the increase in supplies during the next two weeks again probably will be less than usual. Supplies now are expected to be smaller than usual for this time of the year until some time in July. During the last half of June, supplies of beets, string beans, cabbage, cucumbers, onions, and green peppers probably will be below usual levels. However, carrots, lettuce, peas, celery, and lima beans may be more plentiful than usual. Tomato supplies won't be as large as last year, but they will be about average.

Potato supplies also may not increase as much as usual in the next 4 or 5 weeks. Drought conditions have changed the outlook from one of relatively large to one of relatively small supplies. Production in States shipping in these weeks is expected to be about a third less than last year, and at close to record low levels for this season of the year.

Fruit supplies this summer may be slightly larger than last year. Less oranges and sour cherries, and about the same amount of pears as last year, are in prospect. However, sweet cherries, apricots, grapes, lemons, peaches, and California plums probably will be more plentiful. Supplies of citrus fruits probably will decline seasonally in the next few weeks, but increased marketings of most other fruits are expected.

Green corn season is underway and supplies are expected to increase through August, when marketings ordinarily are heaviest. Information on the size of the crop in States shipping in the last half of June is not available, but it is believed that supplies will be larger than last year.

Prices of dairy products may go up less than usual during the last half of this year. Butter, cheese, and evaporated milk, however, probably will continue to be much more expensive than last year. This outlook for a less than usual price increase results from the facts that (1) prices have been advancing, due to Government purchases and speculative buying, instead of declining seasonally in the past three months, and (2) the outlook is for a less than usual seasonal decline in production of dairy products during the last half of 1941. Unless weather conditions turn unfavorable, total supplies of dairy products available for domestic consumption and export this summer will be larger than last year. Whether or not supplies available for domestic consumption will be larger will depend upon the size of the Department's purchases under the Food-for-Defense program. Purchases by the Department in April and May absorbed only part of the increase in milk production over 1940.

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Egg production this fall and winter may be the largest on record for this period. These record supplies are expected to be available when the larger number of pullets being raised this spring begin to lay. During the next few months, the outlook still is for egg production to be about the same as last year, in view of the smaller number of laying hens. Egg prices ordinarily advance during the last half of the year. The increase this year, however, may be less than usual, primarily due to the prospective large fall production, and the current relatively high price level. Nevertheless, egg prices probably will be much higher than last year, throughout the remainder of 1941.

Top grade (good and choice) beef now is selling at wholesale prices only slightly above those of lower grade (commercial and utility) beef. This is in decided contrast to the price situation earlier this year, when the difference was extremely wide. It is quite usual for this difference to be narrow in May and June. Ordinarily, the difference grows narrower during the first half of the year and then widens again during much of the last half of the year. Marketings of better grade cattle are expected to increase during the next two or three months and to be larger than last year. The increase in supplies over last year probably will be most noticeable in the late summer and early fall.

Pork has been going up in price steadily since mid-April and the outlook is for further price increases this summer. Pork also probably will continue to be more expensive than last year, and may reach the highest summer prices since 1937. Supplies this summer probably will be much smaller than last year. The extent of the decrease is not known, but it may be between 10 and 20 per cent under last year's large supplies.

Lamb supplies still are expected to increase during the course of the next 3 or 4 months, and also may be larger than last June and July. Ordinarily, retail lamb prices decline slightly from June to July, and then continue downward for several months.

Canners' stocks of canned fruits and vegetables probably will be at relatively low levels until the new pack is available. This does not indicate a shortage of canned goods, but rather reflects in part large forward buying by wholesalers and retailers in anticipation of higher prices. Data are not available on the current holdings of wholesalers and retailers.

Further increases in melon supplies are expected in the next few weeks. Watermelons probably won't be as plentiful, but supplies of cantaloups may be about the same as in the last half of June last year.

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CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 15 *ec. 14*

July 1, 1941.

Fresh vegetables, melons, fruits, and broiling and frying chickens are expected to be much more plentiful in July than during the past month. However, dairy products, eggs, and pork probably will be in smaller supply than they were last month. These seasonal adjustments in supplies generally result in corresponding trends in retail prices. Prices of most foods probably will continue to be higher than last year, with the increases most pronounced in pork, dairy products, and eggs.

Most vegetables probably will be "good buys" during July. Prices in the summer months, when local supplies are an important factor, generally are lower than in most other months. Marketings of local produce are now under-way, and local producing areas should be an important source of supplies until frost checks production. Information on how local supplies compare with last year is not available.

Watermelons and cantaloups also probably will be "good buys" in July. Supplies of watermelons are expected to reach their monthly peak for the season this month. Prices probably will be at their low point for the season, but watermelons may cost more than last July in view of smaller than usual supplies. Low point in cantaloup prices for the season generally doesn't come until August. However, cantaloups still may be "good buys" in July because supplies are expected to be considerably larger than usual for this month.

Recent marked advance in onion prices appears to be temporary due to reduced supplies in areas shipping in June. Prices are expected to move down again in July as supplies increase seasonally. Trend in onion prices generally is downward from May through October. Supplies in July may be slightly larger than last year, but during the remainder of 1941 onions probably won't be as plentiful as last year.

Canned pea supplies in the 1941-42 season, which opened June 1, may be about the same as the close-to-record supplies last season. Carryover from last season is smaller than on June 1, 1940. The current packing season isn't over yet, but present prospects point to a slightly larger pack than last year. Supplies as large as those in prospect for 1941-42 would be considerably (nearly 50 per cent) larger than average consumption prior to last season. They also would permit disappearance to be as large as last season's record level (when extensive forward buying and some increase in consumption resulted in disappearance 25 per cent above average) and still leave an average size carryover on June 1, 1941.

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Peaches probably will be "good buys" in July as well as in August. Seasonal low point in prices generally comes in August. However, the July supplies are expected to be not only much larger than last year, but also considerably above usual levels.

Pork supply outlook for the 1941-42 season, which opens October 1, has changed. Supplies are expected to be slightly larger, instead of slightly smaller, than in the season now drawing to a close. Upswing in hog prices since early April appears to have caused farmers to alter their breeding plans. Practically all the increase in supply over the current season is expected to come in the spring and summer of 1942. During the remainder of this summer, supplies still are expected to be 10-20 per cent under a year ago. Supplies probably will decrease monthly through September, and then increase again during the last quarter of 1941.

Supplies of dairy products available for domestic consumers in the next 12 months may be slightly larger than in the past year, if milk production continues to be 6 per cent larger than last year--the minimum goal under the Food-for-Defense program. Such an increase not only would permit production of the large quantities of cheese and evaporated milk needed for the British, but also allow domestic consumption of other dairy products to increase 3 percent. Milk production has reached its monthly peak for the year; and reductions are in prospect for the next 6 months. Production, however, probably will continue to be much larger than in 1940. Some further price increases are in prospect in this period of declining production, but these increases may be less than usual. Dairy products probably will continue to be more expensive than last year, with the extent of speculative buying being an important factor in determining the prospective level. Speculative buying and storing has been an important factor behind recent relatively high levels.

Supplies of broiling and frying chickens in July and August probably will be much larger than usual for this time of the year, in view of the record 1941 hatch. Stewing and boiling chickens, however, may not be quite as plentiful as usual.

Beef and lamb supply situation hasn't changed recently, and supplies are expected to increase from now through October. Lamb prices generally decline during this period, but the trend in beef is upward. Top grade (good and choice) beef still is selling at wholesale prices only slightly above those of lower grade (commercial and utility) beef--a decided change from the situation early in 1941 when the spread was very wide.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Two items (fresh peaches and fresh vegetables) have been added, and two (grapefruit and apples) dropped from the list of foods available for blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan. The list of foods designated on a Nation-wide scale for July is as follows:

ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes), FRESH PEACHES, ORANGES
LARD, PORK, EGGS;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR,
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Volume 17, Number 10
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

July 15, 1941

Fresh vegetable supplies during the last half of July probably will be larger than in the first half. However, they may not be quite as plentiful as last year. A good part of current supplies come from local market gardens, on which production information is not available. In commercial areas shipping at this time of the year, the major changes in supplies compared with last year are: marked ~~decreases~~-beets, cabbage, carrots: marked ~~increases~~-lima beans, eggplant, green peas, peppers. Some further reduction in prices is in prospect as supplies increase, but vegetables as a group may cost more than during the last half of July in 1940.

Further increases in peach supplies are expected during the last half of the month and in August. Supplies still are expected to be unusually large for this time of the year, because of a bumper crop in the Southern States. Low point in peach prices for the year generally comes in August, but it may be a little earlier this year, in view of the large quantities marketed early in the season. Date of seasonal low point varies from State to State, depending upon source of peach supplies.

Pear season has opened and supplies probably will increase substantially during the course of the next two and a half months. September ordinarily is the month when pears are most plentiful, and lowest in price. Supplies this year probably won't be as large as last year, but they will be considerably above usual levels. Pears now being marketed are mainly Bartletts.

Watermelon supplies appear to be at or close to their peak for the season, but further increases in cantaloup marketings are in prospect. During the remainder of July cantaloups probably will be much more plentiful than usual. Watermelon supplies will be much smaller than last year but still about average for this time of the year.

Many more sweetpotatoes - substantially fewer white potatoes than in 1940 - is the potato outlook for the remainder of 1941. In both instances supplies probably will be below usual levels. Retail prices of potatoes generally go down between July and October or November, when the low point for the season comes. Recent increase in potato prices was partly seasonal and partly due to drought damage to the crop produced for June and early July marketing.

Record supplies of canned string beans, and close to record supplies of canned peas are expected this season. The pack isn't finished yet, but it is expected to be of record size. This probably will more than offset the small carryovers from last season. The prospective supply for 1941 would permit disappearance of these two canned vegetables to continue at the record rate of the past season, and still leave an average carryover.



Sharp decline in wholesale butter prices since late June appears to be due mainly to a curtailment of speculative buying for storage--a factor which had been important in pushing up prices earlier. Despite this decline, prices are relatively high for this time of the year. Storage stocks are unusually large for July. This factor and production prospects for the remainder of 1941 indicate that supplies may be larger than during the last half of 1940, even though substantial quantities of milk are used to make cheese and evaporated milk for Britain. The supply outlook probably has been important in curtailing speculative storing. Butter supplies are expected to decline monthly from now through December. Some further price increase probably will occur during this period, but the extent is uncertain.

Egg outlook remains unchanged. Supplies still are expected to decline monthly through November and to be slightly larger than last year. Prices probably will go up some more before November, and eggs will continue to be much more expensive than last year.

Unusually large supplies of broiling, frying, and roasting chickens, but relatively small supplies of boiling and stewing chickens (fowl) are in prospect for the remainder of July and in August. Supplies of young chickens during the period probably will be larger than they have been in recent weeks. Trend in poultry prices generally is downward during the last half of the year.

Beef supplies in the late summer and fall months still are expected to be much larger than in 1940, but the increase may not be as large as appeared probable earlier. Supplies in May and June were at record levels and substantially larger than in 1940. It is possible that fed cattle are being marketed a little earlier than expected. In mid-July wholesale prices of better-grade, (good and choice) beef were only slightly above those of lower-grade (commercial and utility) beef. This situation is partly seasonal, but it also reflects the unusually large marketings of heavy weight better-grade cattle. Trend in monthly beef supplies from now through September should be upward, with the increase due mainly to increased supplies of better-grade beef.

Hog supplies are expected to continue to decline during the course of the next two and a half months, and to be much smaller than last year. Retail pork prices generally go up and reach their peak for the year in the summer months. Recent price increases have been larger than usual.

Supplies of dried beans for the current season not only are expected to be much larger than last season, but also the largest of record. However, in view of increased consumer buying power, and purchases under the Food-for-Defense program, beans probably will cost more than last year. This increase in supplies is due to inclusion of dried beans under the Food-for-Defense program. After the program was announced, acreage was increased to a level 11 percent larger than last year. Most of the increase in supply over 1940 is expected to be in white beans.

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CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 16

August 1, 1941

Total supply of food for the remainder of 1941 probably will be larger than in the same months last year. Just how much food will be available for domestic use, however, still is uncertain because quantities that will be exported in connection with lend-lease activities are not definitely known now. Food most likely will continue to be more expensive than in 1940 even though total supplies are larger. Factors which will tend to keep prices above a year ago are: increased consumer buying power, the Department's price-supporting programs, the Food-for-Defense program, and lend-lease exports, Congressional action designed to achieve higher farm prices, purchases for "stocking up" purposes, and speculative holding.

Prospective changes in total supplies of major foods relative to the last half of 1940 are: Increases--beef and veal, lamb, poultry and eggs, dairy products, wheat, rice, dried beans, fresh fruits, canned vegetables, and sweet-potatoes; Decreases--pork and potatoes. Canned and dried food supply situation is uncertain, but supplies probably will be at least as large as a year earlier. Quantities of fresh vegetables (excluding potatoes) available during the remainder of the year will depend upon weather conditions, but, barring unfavorable weather, supplies may be at least equal to those a year ago.

Peaches, cantaloups, and green corn should be good buys for consumers in August. This is the time of the year when these products ordinarily are most plentiful. This August unusually large amounts of peaches and cantaloups are expected to be available for marketing. Size of the green corn crop, which comes largely from local market gardens, is not known, but marketings in recent weeks have been larger than last year. Season for these three foods won't be over until October. However, August and September are generally the last months in which marketings are heavy.

Supplies of dairy products are expected to decline less than usual during the remaining months of 1941. Whether or not this will mean a less than seasonal price increase will depend to a large extent on the amount of dairy products purchased and the price paid by the Department under its Food-for-Defense program. The Department currently is buying butter as well as cheese, evaporated milk, and dried milk. Purchase prices are substantially above those a year ago.

Egg supplies from now through November, when production reaches its low point for the year, also may decrease less than usual. As in the case of butter, the extent of the price increase during this period will depend to a large extent on the Department's purchase program. Egg production is now higher than

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a year ago, after having been below 1940 levels for several months, and is expected to continue larger. The increase over last year should be more pronounced as the year progresses. Prices probably will continue to be substantially higher than a year ago.

Pork supplies most likely will decline for another month or so until heavy marketings of pigs from the 1941 spring pig crop commence. Supplies during August and September also will be substantially less than a year ago. However, in the last quarter of the year, pork may be only slightly less plentiful than in the last quarter of 1940. Retail pork prices generally reach their high point for the year in September and then decline during the remainder of the year.

Supplies of better grade beef during August are expected to be much more plentiful than they were both last month and a year ago. Better grade (good and choice) beef prices usually go up during the late summer and early fall, and this increase generally widens the differential between prices of better and lower grade beef. In the past month or so better grade beef prices have not increased as much as usual. The difference between better and average grade beef also has continued to be much smaller than early this year and also slightly smaller than a year ago.

Fresh vegetable supplies during August probably will be larger than they were last month. However, they may not differ much from a year ago. While some further reduction in prices probably will occur in August, vegetables as a group may cost more than a year ago.

Sugar quota for 1941 has been increased for the fourth time. Supplies now available under the quota are about a million tons (15%) more than the the amount of sugar consumed in the United States last year.

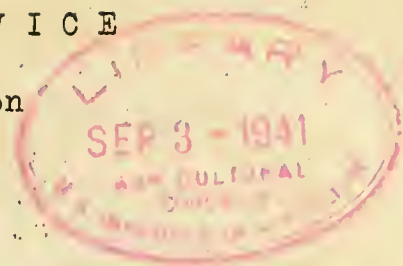
"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Pork products have been dropped, and four fresh fruits and enriched flour have been added to the list of foods available in exchange for blue stamps under the Food Stamp program. The list of foods for the month of August is:

FRESH PEARS, PLUMS, FRESH PRUNES, ~~APPLES~~, ORANGES, PEACHES;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes), EGGS;
RAISINS, DRIED PRUNES, DRIED BEANS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR
(including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORN
MEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.



Volume V, Number 17

August 15, 1941

Food supply and price outlook has changed very little in the past two weeks. Total supplies of most foods (available for use here, and abroad under Lend-Lease) still are expected to be larger than last year. During the course of the next month, (1) supplies of beef, lamb, fruits (except citrus), fresh vegetables, and poultry are expected to increase; (2) reductions are in prospect for pork, dairy products, and eggs; (3) relatively small supplies of canned vegetables left from last season will be augmented by shipments from the record size 1941 pack. Despite this supply outlook, retail food prices probably will continue to be much higher than last year and also above most years since 1930.

Fresh vegetables may be a little more plentiful during the last half of this month than during the first half. However, supplies probably will be smaller and slightly more expensive than at this time last year. Growers have planted just about as many acres to vegetables as they did in 1940. Output has been smaller due to unfavorable growing conditions.

Supplies of cabbage, onions, and potatoes are expected to increase materially during the course of the next two months, as marketings from the late producing States get underway. These States not only furnish the bulk of these staples marketed in the fall and winter months, but also a substantial part of the total amounts used each year. Consequently, retail prices of these three vegetables generally reach their low for the year in October or November, when harvesting operations in the late States are heaviest. Prices of cabbage, onions, and potatoes probably will continue to be higher than last year. Production in each case is expected to be below 1940 levels. The late onion and potato crops are about average in size, but the cabbage crop may be above average.

Canned vegetable supplies for the season which has just opened are expected to be at a new record high and much larger than last year. The increase in canned tomato pack over last year, however, probably will be less than suggested last spring in anticipation of various increased demands.

Peaches still should be relatively plentiful during the remainder of August. Season won't be over until early October. However, marketings are not heavy after September

Considerably more cantaloups and about the same amount of watermelons as last year is the melon outlook for the remainder of the season. Cantaloup supplies currently are at their peak for the season. Peak marketings

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of watermelons came last month.

Apple supplies through the remainder of 1941 probably will be much larger than in the comparable period of 1940. Current crop apples already are moving to market, but shipments probably won't be relatively large until next month. Retail prices generally hit bottom in October, when marketings are at their peak. Prices move up from November through May or June.

Orange supplies are expected to decline from now through October, (highest retail price orange month in the year), but marketings may be larger than last year. Supplies during this period consist mainly of California Valencia oranges.

Beef supplies during the next four weeks not only are expected to be larger than in the past month, but also much larger than a year earlier. Outlook is for considerably more beef than in 1940, throughout the remainder of the year. Much of this increase probably will be in Good and Choice beef. Consequently, the price difference per pound between this better grade beef and Commercial and Utility, or low grade beef, may be less than usual. Average retail price of beef during the remainder of the year probably will be above the same period in 1940. The peak price level, however, may not differ much from that last year.

Pork probably will be less plentiful than in 1940 for about four more months, but the decrease in supplies from a year ago will be less pronounced toward the end of the year than it is now. Some further price increase seems likely, before prices start to move down in the last quarter of the year.

Nut supplies probably will be more plentiful than usual this season. The almond crop is much smaller than a year ago and below average. However, production of walnuts, pecans, and filberts is considerably above usual levels.

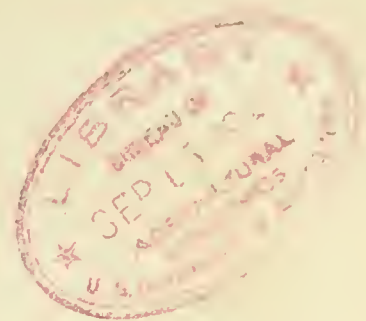
Relatively large rice supplies are in prospect for the season which opened August 1. Stocks remaining from last season are relatively small, but the 1941 crop is of record large size. Total supplies will be sufficient to permit disappearance to continue at the relatively high rate of the 1940-41 season.

Cauliflower supplies during the next six weeks probably will be much larger than usual and slightly above 1940. Marketings generally increase seasonally in late August and September and reach their peak for the year in October.

Poultry outlook for the remainder of 1941 still is for larger than usual supplies of young chickens for broiling, frying, and roasting, but smaller than usual supplies of stewing and boiling chickens. Ordinarily, supplies increase monthly during this period, and low point in price for the year comes in December.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.



Volume V, Number 18

September 1, 1941.

Fruit supplies probably will be larger than last September, but prices most likely will be higher. During the course of the month, supplies of pears, fresh plums and prunes, and figs are expected to increase and to be larger than in any other month of the year. Marketings of grapes and apples also will increase, but peak supplies of these fruits won't reach markets until next month. Peach and orange supplies, however, probably will be smaller than during August.

Fresh vegetable supplies this month, and probably also in October, may be slightly smaller than last year. Unfavorable growing conditions continue to be the major factor for these reduced supplies and higher prices.

Apple supplies this season probably will be larger than usual. The 1941 crop is only an average size crop, but in view of the loss of export markets, supplies for domestic use will be above average levels. While supplies will be moderately larger than last year, the average price of apples from now through next May probably will be above the average for last season, largely because of increased purchasing power and Department purchases.

Eggs won't be as plentiful in September as they were last month, but the decrease in supplies most likely will be less than usual. Total supplies probably will be larger than in September, 1940. However, quantities available for domestic use may be no larger than last year, in view of the Department's egg purchase program. Retail egg prices are likely to continue well above 1940 levels, during the remainder of the year. Some further price increase is in prospect between now and November, when eggs generally cost more than in any other month. Top grade eggs probably will go up more than average grade eggs; and this will result in wider price differential between these two grades. This differential generally is widest during the late fall and early winter months.

Poultry outlook for the remainder of 1941 still is for unusually large supplies of young chickens for frying and roasting, but below usual supplies of stewing and boiling chickens. Supplies during September probably will be larger than last month. Further monthly increases in marketings are in prospect through December, when low point in poultry prices for the season generally is reached.

A few turkeys from the 1941 crop are now available in markets, but it probably will be at least six more weeks before large quantities are available. Usually, marketings are heaviest in November and December,

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due to holiday demand. Supplies this year may not differ much from the record supplies of 1940. Under these circumstances, turkey may cost slightly more than last year. Price level at Thanksgiving and Christmas will depend to a large extent on the volume ready for market at these holiday periods.

Meat supplies during the remainder of 1941 probably will be slightly larger than last year. Beef, particularly better grade (good and choice), will be much more plentiful than last year, and lamb supplies also will be larger. However, these increases will be nearly offset by reduced supplies of pork. Beef, pork, and lamb probably will continue to be more expensive than last year, with increases most marked in pork.

Beef prices generally go up in September, but the increase this year may be less than usual. Major factor behind this prospect is the unusually large quantities of better grade beef available for marketing this fall. These large quantities of good and choice beef may also result in a smaller than usual difference between the price of good and choice grade and commercial and utility grade beef this fall and early winter. This is the time of the year when this price difference generally is widest.

Lamb supplies in September probably will be larger than last month. So far this year the seasonal price decline, which generally comes in the spring and summer, has been relatively small. Prices, however, may go down some more between now and October or November when low point in retail prices for the year ordinarily comes.

Pork prices are expected to move down as soon as heavy marketings of spring pigs begin. Ordinarily this downturn starts in late September. Just when it will start this year is uncertain.

Relatively large supplies of canned corn are in prospect for this season. The current pack may reach 25 million cases, the largest of record. Supplies of corn in canners' hands remaining from last season are relatively small. However, total supplies for this season are about one-third larger than last season's disappearance and considerably above consumption in all earlier years.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

List of foods available for blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan for the current month is the same as that last month. Items included are:

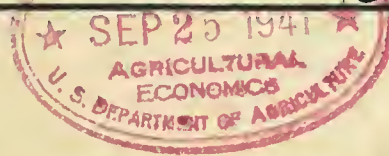
FRESH PEARS, PLUMS, FRESH PRUNES, APPLES, ORANGES, PEACHES;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (including potatoes); EGGS;
RAISINS, DRIED PRUNES, DRIED BEANS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR
(including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORN
MEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 19

September 15, 1941



Food production in 1942 will be at a new record high level if farmers achieve the 1942 agricultural goals set by the Department. These goals provide for a marked increase over 1941 in production of dairy and poultry products, meats, and domestic oil seeds, and a slight increase in fresh vegetables. These increased supplies will be available for domestic use, lend-lease exports, and for reserve stockpiles. Changes in domestic supplies resulting from these goals thus will depend upon not only the amount of the production increase, but also the size of exports and stockpiles. Despite this outlook for a record food production, retail food prices in 1942 are expected to average higher than this year.

Vegetable supplies this fall probably will continue to be smaller than they were last year. With consumer incomes higher than last year, the outlook is for higher prices than in 1940. Supplies of the more hardy vegetables, such as cabbage, onions, celery, are expected to increase during the next few months, whereas marketings of tender vegetables, such as peas and snap beans, most likely will decline. This change in the supply situation generally occurs at this time of the year. Compared with last fall, the outlook is for more carrots, green peas, and tomatoes, but less beets, cabbage, celery, lettuce, and onions.

Relatively large supplies of cranberries are in prospect for the 1941 season, which runs from September through January. The current crop is about 100,000 barrels (17%) larger than last year's small crop and the sixth largest crop of record. Marketings are expected to increase until November, when they generally reach their high point for the year. Cranberries vary in size and color according to variety. Top quality cranberries are plump, firm, and have a high luster.

Brussel sprouts season has opened, and marketings probably will increase during the next few months. These miniature cabbages generally are most plentiful from October through December. Season ordinarily doesn't end until March. Best quality sprouts are firm, compact, and of a good green color.

Cauliflower marketings are expected to increase substantially during the next two and a half months, and this should mean price declines. Usually, marketings reach their peak for the year in October and November. Supplies this year probably will be larger than usual. Quality of cauliflower is judged primarily by the condition of the curd which should be solid, heavy, creamy white or white, and with flower clusters closely united.

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There has been no significant recent change in the potato supply outlook for this winter. Outlook still is for more sweetpotatoes, but less white potatoes, than last winter. Harvesting of potatoes will be soon at its peak, and during this period potato prices reach their low point for the season.

Egg prices probably will go up some more between now and November, when eggs ordinarily are most expensive, but the amount of the advance may be less than usual. Prices, however, probably will continue well above a year ago and may be the highest for this time of the year since 1930. Egg production now is slightly higher than a year ago, whereas several months ago it was under 1940 levels. Production probably will continue to exceed last year's level throughout the winter months, unless the winter is an unusually cold one. The increase, relative to last year, is expected to grow steadily larger throughout the winter. Whether or not the increase in production will mean more eggs for domestic consumption will depend upon the size of lend-lease exports during this period.

Butter consumption throughout most of the year has been about the same as in 1940, even though production has been considerably higher. As a result, storage stocks have gone up more than usual and are relatively high for this time of the year. Butter that is stored generally moves into consumption channels between September and March. The current storage supply situation thus may result in a less-than-usual price advance during the remainder of the year. Prices, however, probably will continue above the levels of most recent years.

American cheese production during the remainder of 1941 probably will be substantially larger than last year, but prices are expected to continue at relatively high levels. Wholesale prices have gone up nearly 70% since March of this year. Major factors behind this increase have been (1) purchases by the Department for lend-lease exports, (2) speculative holding of cheese, and (3) increased consumer buying power. Purchases by the Department have only been about equal to the increase in production over 1940. Current stocks of American cheese are the largest of record. These factors would indicate that Department purchases have been responsible for only part of the price advance.

Fruit supply outlook hasn't changed much in the past two weeks. Total supplies probably will be larger, with increases most pronounced in apples and peaches. Supplies of oranges and peaches probably will decline during the course of the next month, but increased marketings of apples and grapes are expected.

Lamb supplies not only are expected to increase for another month or so, but also to be moderately larger than a year ago. This will probably result in some further seasonal decline in retail prices. However, lamb probably will continue to be more expensive than last fall.

Retail pork prices are expected to turn down again very shortly, after having gone up steadily since the early part of this year. This downswing in prices probably will begin when spring pigs begin to move to market in large enough volume which should be sometime within the course of the next four weeks. Generally, retail prices reach their peak in September and then decline from October through the early part of the following year. Even though prices are expected to go down, pork probably will continue to be more expensive than last year.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 20

October 1, 1941

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October generally marks a turning point in prices of meats and fresh vegetables. Prices of pork and beef generally start to decline, a trend which ordinarily continues until the early part of the year. Prices of tender vegetables, on the other hand, begin moving up. In other major foods price trends in October usually are: upward--eggs, butter, oranges; downward--poultry, lamb, staple vegetables, apples.

Larger supplies of staple vegetables, but smaller quantities of tender vegetables than in September is the supply outlook for this month. Consequently, prices of the former probably will go down, whereas those of tender vegetables will advance. Vegetables most likely will be re-tailing at levels slightly above those last October. Some items will be more plentiful than in 1940, but combined supplies are expected to be a little under 1940 levels.

Cabbage won't be as plentiful as it was last October, but supplies probably will increase in the next several weeks. October and November generally are the months when cabbage is cheapest. Current supplies, as well as those during the winter, come largely from the late producing States, where harvesting now is under way. Prime heads of cabbage are firm and heavy for their size.

Onion supplies also are expected to increase during the course of the next several weeks and to be much smaller than last year. This year's crop in the late producing States, source of supplies until early next spring, is about average in size. In the western States, where the crop consists mainly of sweet Spanish onions, production is larger than last year and close to record size. The central States, which produce mainly yellow onions, have an unusually small crop. While sweet Spanish onions probably will continue to sell at higher prices than yellows, the difference this winter most likely will be smaller than usual. Good quality onions are hard, well-shaped, and have a dry skin. Onions which show evidence of decay, or which have seed stems, usually are not desirable because of waste in preparation.

Apple production usually moves up and down in cycles, and this is one of the up-production years. The 1941 crop not only is 12 per cent larger than last year, but also a little above average (1930-1939). Marketings are expected to increase during October, which generally is the time of the year when apples are cheapest. Since there are many varieties and several grades and sizes of apples marketed, consumers will find grade, variety, and size designation marked on containers a helpful

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guide in buying. Medium size apples--2 1/2 to 2 3/4 inches in diameter, or 113 to 138 to the box--are most desirable for general use. Best apples for general cooking are tart or slightly acid, while varieties like Rome Beauty and Rhode Island Greenings are excellent for baking. Western apples are graded as Extra Fancy, Fancy, C grade, or a combination of these grades. Eastern apples are marketed as U. S. #1, U. S. Combination, or U. S. Utility grade.

First grapefruit of the season from Florida, largest single grapefruit producing State, have moved to market and seasonal increases in shipment are expected during the remainder of the year. Shipments probably won't be heavy until the latter part of the month when there will be larger quantities from Florida and also Texas fruit. The official estimate on 1941 production is not available as yet. However, trade reports indicate that output won't be quite as big as last year's, and prices will be higher.

New crop oranges from Florida and Texas probably won't be available for several weeks. During October, California Valencias are the principal source of supply. Prices usually reach their high for the season in October, and then tumble down.

Turkey growers plan to market a larger proportion of their crop prior to Thanksgiving than they did in 1940. This year's crop is about the same as last year. Hence, fresh killed supplies in October probably will be slightly larger than last year. Marketings are expected to increase steadily until Thanksgiving. Prices probably will decline some more, but they may be above last year. So far this year, tom turkeys have been selling at or above prices for hens, a decided change from 1940 when the heavier weight toms were priced much below hens. This changed price relationship probably will continue throughout the remainder of 1941.

Pork prices appear to have reached their peak for the year and are expected to decline during the course of the next three or four months as marketings of pigs increase seasonally. Seasonal price decline this year may be smaller than in 1940. Extent of the decline will be influenced to a large degree by the amount of pork purchased by the Department for shipment under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Three fresh fruits (peaches, plums, and prunes) have been dropped from the list of foods available for blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan. Items included for the month of October are:

FRESH PEARS, APPLES, ORANGES;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (Including potatoes); EGGS;
RAISINS, DRIED PRUNES, DRIED BEANS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR
(including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORN
MEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 21

October 15, 1941

Vegetable supplies are turning out to be smaller than appeared likely earlier this month, due to unfavorable growing conditions. Current crop conditions indicate that total supplies of both tender and staple vegetables during the remainder of October and in November will be smaller than last year. Staple vegetables probably won't be as plentiful as last season throughout the winter, but tender vegetables will be more plentiful after the turn of the year if weather is favorable in the South. Some further increase in marketings of staples (cabbage, onions, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes) is expected during the next three or four weeks, but marketings of the more tender vegetables probably will continue to decline. Compared with last October and November, supply prospects are as follows: Increases--cucumbers, carrots, celery, peppers, sweetpotatoes; decreases--cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, lima beans, snap beans, potatoes.

Grapefruit supplies for the season which has just opened won't be quite as big as last year, but they will be much larger than usual. The 1941 crop is the third largest of record. Half the current crop is in Florida, and about one-third in Texas. Monthly seasonal fluctuations in grapefruit prices and supplies have become less pronounced as production has expanded. December through February, or March, generally is the period when marketings are heaviest and prices lowest. All States shipping grapefruit have laws prohibiting shipment of immature fruit. In addition to these laws, grade and size of grapefruit marketed from Florida, Arizona, and part of California are being regulated under marketing agreements. Good quality grapefruit is firm, but springy to the touch, and heavy for its size. Most of the skin defects found on grapefruit--scars, thorn scratches, discoloration--do not affect eating quality.

Marketings of oranges, which have been declining in recent weeks, are expected to increase seasonally as soon as new crop oranges begin to move to market in volume. The current season has been a little late in getting under way. Supplies this winter and spring probably won't be as large as last year. However, they still will be above usual levels. Production of Florida and Texas oranges is expected to be slightly larger than last year, but this increase will be more than offset by smaller supplies of California Navels. Because of expansion in summer orange production in recent years, month-to-month fluctuations in prices and supplies have become less pronounced. Orange marketings ordinarily reach their seasonal high in December when Florida shipments are at their peak. Supplies from January to March, however, are only slightly below their December level. As in the case of grapefruit, weight is one of the best tests for quality of oranges.

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Storm damage has reduced apple supplies for the season. Supplies still are expected to be larger than last year, but they won't differ much from usual levels. The storm which blew many apples off trees has been responsible for the large quantities of lower grade fruit marketed recently.

Difference between retail prices of top and average grade eggs has widened considerably in the past two months. This price differential currently is about the usual amount for this time of the year, but it may be wider than usual during the remainder of 1941. Ordinarily, the price difference between top and average grade eggs is smallest in the spring and widest in the last quarter of the year. Egg supply outlook has not changed since early October. Total supplies in October, as well as in November, probably will exceed those of last year, but quantities available for use in the United States may be under 1941 levels in view of Lend-Lease exports. Prices thus will continue to be relatively high for this time of the year. Supplies are expected to decline seasonally for about another month, and this may result in further price advances before the peak in egg prices is reached in November.

Wholesale prices of lower grade (88 to 90-score) butter are not as far above last year's prices as are the prices of better grade (92 and 93-score) butter. Consequently, the difference between prices of these grades has widened considerably and now is about twice as wide as in recent years. This price difference is expected to continue to be wider than usual during the remainder of 1941. Butter production has been declining in recent weeks and further decreases are in prospect for the remainder of the year. Supplies, however, probably will continue to be much larger than in 1940. This supply prospect, coupled with marked price increases early in the season, indicates that butter prices may go up less than usual from now through December, when prices ordinarily are at their yearly high point.

Beef probably will be much more plentiful than last year during the remainder of the year. Some seasonal decline in retail prices most likely will occur during this period, but prices may be about the same as last year's relatively high levels. Most of the increase in beef supplies over last year is expected to be in better grade beef. Hence, the difference between the price of better grade (good and choice) and average grade (commercial and utility) beef will be much smaller than in the last quarter of 1940.

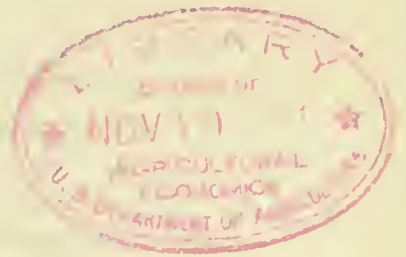
Poultry situation for October is about the same as that of last month. Young chickens for broiling, frying, and roasting are expected to be more plentiful, whereas chickens suitable for baking, boiling, and stewing will be less plentiful than last year. Marketings of young chickens have increased in recent weeks, and further increases are in prospect during each of the remaining months of 1941. Poultry prices ordinarily decline monthly during the last half of the year and reach their low point in December.

Pecan supplies this season will be larger than usual, even though they won't be quite as plentiful as last year. The 1941 crop is the fourth largest of record.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by

CONSUMERS' COUNSEL DIVISION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Volume V, Number 22

November 1, 1941

This is the time of the year when brussels sprouts, cranberries, and turkeys ordinarily are most plentiful. Supplies of staple vegetables (onions, cabbage, sweet potatoes, and potatoes) and root vegetables (beets, carrots, parsnips, turnips, and rutabagas) also are relatively large compared with most other months. Apple supplies are only slightly under their October peak level, and marketings of young chickens aren't quite as large as their December high point. In other major foods the trend in supplies at this time of the year is - upward: grapefruit, oranges, pork; downward: eggs, butter, beef, lamb, grapes, pears, and tender vegetables.

Relatively large supplies of cranberries are in prospect for the remainder of the year. This year's crop is not only 25 per cent larger than last year, but the third largest of record. The increase in supplies over last year is mainly in Massachusetts which furnishes about two-thirds of annual supplies. Top quality cranberries are firm and have a fresh plump appearance and a high luster. Color should not be used exclusively to judge quality, because color is primarily an indication of variety, rather than degree of maturity.

Turkey supplies during November also are expected to be relatively large. Supplies may not differ much from last year, but they most likely will be larger than in every other November. Retail prices in November probably will be lower than last month, but they are expected to be higher than a year ago.

Size of prospective brussels sprouts supplies for 1941 is not known because there is no official estimate in production of these miniature cabbages. There have been reports, however, that supplies in recent weeks haven't been as large as usual due to unfavorable growing conditions. In buying sprouts consumers should remember that (a) good quality sprouts are firm, have a good green color and a fresh or bright appearance; (b) puffy sprouts are edible, but have a poor flavor; (c) considerable waste is involved in preparing sprouts with wilted, yellowed, or riddled leaves.

Tender vegetables are expected to be less plentiful than last November, as well as last month. Weather conditions have been unfavorable in Florida, major source of many tender vegetables at this

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time of the year. Prices thus may go up more than usual this month and be higher than last year.

Supplies of some staple vegetables have been curtailed by lack of rain in recent weeks. Exact extent of damage isn't known yet. However, it appears that even though sweetpotato supplies may be larger than last year, onions, cabbage, and potatoes won't be as plentiful. Seasonal low in potato prices appears to have been reached, and prices are expected to move up some more between now and next spring. Other staples probably will start to advance seasonally very shortly.

Meat supplies during the remainder of 1941 probably won't differ much from a year earlier. Beef and lamb are expected to be more plentiful, but pork supplies most likely will be smaller than in November and December 1940. Pork supplies are now increasing seasonally and prices have dropped from their September peak. Further increases in supplies and reductions in prices are in prospect for the next few months, but the decline may not be as marked as usual. Beef prices have gone down during the course of the past month and some further decline also may occur during the next few months. Pork and beef prices, however, probably will continue to be higher than in most recent years.

Egg production is expected to reach its low for the year during November. This is the time of the year when egg prices generally are highest, and when the price difference between low and top grade eggs is extremely wide. Production in November probably will be higher than last year and relatively large for the month. Whether or not this will mean larger supplies for domestic use than last November will depend upon quantities purchased for lend-lease purposes.

Butter production has dropped slightly below 1940 levels, but supplies during the remainder of the year still are expected to be larger than in 1940. Considerably larger storage holdings than last year will tend to more than offset any prospective reduction in production. Some further increase in prices may occur between now and December, when prices generally are highest. However, this advance may be less than usual, in view of relatively large supplies, and current relatively high prices.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Butter and fresh pork have been added to the list of foods available for purchase with blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan. Foods for November are:

APPLES, ORANGES, PEARS;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (Including potatoes);
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS;
BUTTER, FRESH PORK, EGGS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING FLOUR
(including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR, CORN
MEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume V, Number 23

November 15, 1941

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Thanksgiving dinners probably will cost more to prepare this year than last year and they also are expected to be more expensive than in most recent years. Practically everything on the menu will be more expensive largely because consumers generally have more money to spend. Compared with last year, changes in supplies of holiday foods are as follows:

Larger -- roasting chickens, cranberries, beef, apples, oranges, walnuts, filberts, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, butter.

About the same -- lamb, celery, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, green peppers, beets, eggs.

Smaller -- turkeys, boiling and stewing chickens, pork, grapefruit, almonds, pecans, potatoes, onions, snap beans, spinach, kale.

Turkey supplies are expected to be a little smaller than they were during the last half of November in 1940. Supplies last year were the largest of record, so that current supplies will be close to record size. This year's turkey crop is a little larger than last year, but since storage holdings are smaller, and farmers are holding back larger numbers of turkeys for breeding, marketings may not be as big as last year. Retail prices in New York in recent weeks have been 4 to 5 cents a pound higher than last year and the highest for this time of the year since 1937. Tom turkeys as usual are priced lower than hen turkeys, but the price difference is much smaller than it was last year.

Cranberry supplies are turning out to be a little larger than expected earlier this year and they may be about one-third larger than in 1940. The current crop is the third largest of record, and consequently supplies will be relatively large. Retail prices in New York in recent weeks have been about the same as these a year ago.

Chestnuts again will be in relatively small supply during the holiday period. Most of our supplies ordinarily are imported and the war has shut off these imports. Limited supplies of chestnuts from California, however, will be available in markets as was the case last year, but prices probably will again be higher than they usually are when imported supplies are available.

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Supplies of roasting chickens are expected to increase further during the next 4 to 6 weeks and to be much more plentiful than at this time a year ago. The relatively large supply of these young chickens is due to the large hatch this spring. Despite relatively large marketings of young chickens in recent weeks, prices have been slightly higher than a year ago.

Vegetable supplies are expected to decline seasonally during the next 2 weeks and to be smaller than they were last year. As a result, prices probably will advance further and be higher than they were a year ago. Unfavorable weather conditions appear to have particularly damaged snap bean supplies and quantities available currently are substantially smaller than last year. Supplies of spinach and kale also are expected to be substantially smaller. However, there will be substantially larger quantities of tomatoes, cucumbers, and egg-plant than a year ago.

Orange supplies this winter are expected to be slightly larger than a year ago and relatively large compared with recent years. The 1941-42 season is just getting under way and marketings are expected to increase materially during the course of the next few months. The season has been a little late in starting and this is one of the factors why prices have not declined as much as they usually do in early November.

Relatively small supplies of tangerines are in prospect for this year. The 1941 crop is about one-third smaller than last year and the smallest in the past 10 years. Some grades and sizes will be withheld under government regulation of marketings. Tangerine season has just started and supplies ordinarily are available through March. December generally is the month when marketings are heaviest. Prices probably will go down as supplies increase during the next few weeks but they probably will be much higher than last year.

Relatively large supplies of nuts are expected this year even though chestnuts are relatively scarce and almond supplies will be small. A record crop of filberts, (50 percent bigger than a year ago) is expected. The walnut crop is one-third larger than a year ago and close to record size. Pecans are not quite as plentiful as last year but the crop is considerably above average. This year's almond crop, however, is 40 percent less than a year ago and, except for 1929, the smallest in 20 years. Wholesale prices of all nuts are higher than a year ago but the increase in almonds is much larger than in other nuts.

Potato prices have moved up in recent weeks and further price increases are in prospect until next April or May. The increase was a little larger than usual and reflects the fact that current supplies are smaller (5 percent) than a year ago, whereas late summer and early fall supplies were larger than in 1940. Potato supplies from now through April or May are expected to continue under 1940-41 levels. Consequently prices probably will continue to be higher than last year.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

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Volume V, Number 24

★ DEC 17 1941 ★
December 1, 1941

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Food price and supply outlook for December relative to last year is about the same as it was last month. Supplies, with the major exceptions of pork, grapefruit and some vegetables, are expected to be larger than last year. Prices probably will continue to be above 1940 levels, and in many cases higher than in most recent years. Major factors responsible for this higher price level are increased consumer incomes, Lend-Lease purchases, and speculative buying for "stocking up" purposes.

Vegetables probably won't be as plentiful as they were last month, nor supplies as large as a year ago. Consequently prices are expected to go up some more and to be higher than in December, 1940. Upturn in prices of staple vegetables probably will continue through the early spring months. However, prices of the more tender vegetables should start to turn down in another month or so.

Marked increases in supplies of oranges and grapefruit are in prospect for December and this should mean further price declines. Citrus fruits probably will continue to be more expensive than last season. During December, marketings of Florida oranges generally hit their peak for the season. However, supplies of oranges, as well as grapefruit, are relatively large in practically every month during the winter. Quality of citrus marketed has improved materially during recent weeks, and should improve further in December.

Tangerines ordinarily are most plentiful in December, but supplies this year will be smaller than usual. The current crop is one-third less than last year and the smallest in 10 years.

Turkey supplies in December may be larger than last month and there is some prospect that they may be cheaper at Christmas than they were at Thanksgiving. Supplies to date have been smaller than seemed likely with a crop as large as this year's. This may be due to the fact that producers have a larger than usual number of late hatched turkeys. If this is the case, supplies at Christmas and New Year's may be heavy, in contrast with the tight supply situation last month.

Better grade (Good and Choice grade) beef supply situation is expected to change materially after the turn of the year. Supplies in recent months have been considerably larger than a year ago, and better grade beef has been retailing at a smaller than usual premium over lower grade beef. After the turn of the year, however, better grade supplies will be smaller than a year ago, and the price premium on better grade beef most likely will be much

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larger than usual. Retail beef prices often decline during the early part of the year, but with this supply prospect, prices may start moving up a little earlier than usual. During December, supplies of all grades of beef probably will be larger than last year, but smaller than in November. Some further retail price decline seems likely before prices start to move up again.

Pork supplies in December probably will be bigger than last month, but they won't be as large as a year ago. After the turn of the year, however, pork probably will be more plentiful than it was last year. Pork is expected to continue to retail at levels much higher than the relatively low prices of last winter. Nevertheless, some further price decline is in prospect during the next month or so. This is the time of the year when pork prices generally go down, but the decline this year may be less than usual.

Butter prices probably will go up some more during December -- the month in which they usually hit their high for the season. However, the price increase over a year ago may not be as large as it has been. Butter production is expected to be slightly smaller than both last month and last December. But total supplies will be bigger than last year due to unusually heavy storage stocks. These heavy storage stocks will tend to retard the rate of price increase in December.

Eggs prices appear to have passed their peak for the season and a downward price trend is in prospect until next March or April. However, eggs probably will continue to be more expensive than a year ago, and there is a possibility that they may go down less than they usually do during the course of the next three or four months. Production of eggs this winter is expected to continue at record high levels. Some of these eggs will be exported for Lend-Lease purposes. Size of these exports will be an important factor in determining whether or not quantities available for domestic use are more plentiful than a year ago.

"BLUE STAMP FOODS"

Grapefruit has been added to the list of foods available for purchase with blue stamps under the Food Stamp Plan. Foods for December are:

APPLES, ORANGES, PEARS, GRAPEFRUIT;
ALL FRESH VEGETABLES (Including potatoes);
DRIED BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS;
BUTTER, PORK, EGGS;
ALL WHEAT FLOUR (including enriched), ALL SELF-RISING
FLOUR (including enriched), WHOLE WHEAT (Graham)
FLOUR, CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS.

